

	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	ISSUE DATE: October 4, 2001
	LAB BULLETIN	NUMBER: LB-6-2001
		LAP: Asbestos
SUBJECT: Change of Providers of Asbestos Proficiency Testing Services		

NVLAP is in the process of rebidding the contract for the provider of proficiency testing for the Bulk and Airborne Asbestos Programs. Under the structure of the new contract, laboratories will no longer pay proficiency testing fees to NVLAP, but will instead apply directly to the proficiency testing provider for services. However, the proficiency testing provider will continue to supply the individual laboratory data to NVLAP. NVLAP will then send its laboratories the results of their proficiency tests.

The current contract will end upon completion of PLM Round M22001 and TEM Round 01-1. It is expected that the new contract will be awarded this year, but it may take some time before the proficiency testing provider is set up to receive proficiency test applications and fees. NVLAP will continue to update you as to what actions you should take to ensure enrollment in future proficiency tests.

The revised NVLAP Fee Schedule will show an increase in the Administrative/Technical Support Fee. This money will be used to cover the cost of the NIST technical expert oversight. This is not a new fee as this money was previously contained within the proficiency testing fee paid to NVLAP. Some laboratories may be due a refund from NVLAP. Those laboratories will be informed individually about the refund process.

By taking the above actions, it is hoped that we can improve the process and better control future costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Davis at (301) 975-6499 or e-mail thomas.davis@nist.gov.